

THE ARRANGEMENT OF KITCHENS AND COOKING APPARATUS.*

ARCHITECTURE has lately been recommended by several writers, as a fit and agreeable study for ladies. Our own pages have more than once borne witness to the abilities of fair correspondents. We may therefore assume, that our readers are not wholly comprised by one sex, and as Mr. Soyer has addressed many of his remarks to the ladies, we shall probably not be wrong in concluding, that they in some degree direct the duties of the kitchen. Many of our professional readers will, we are sure, recollect, as we do, how often they have been indebted for valuable hints in the arrangement of a house to those, who must often be more familiar with the ends desired than the master of the future mansion. To our fair readers, therefore, we appeal as to the truth of our remarks on the great importance of attention to the apparatus of the kitchen. Though a less interesting subject than many, with which we could fill our pages, it is even in an ordinary house, a matter second to none in importance. It is this consideration, added to that of its having been much neglected, which leads us to devote additional space to Mr. Soyer's illustrations.

We need go no further to prove the importance of arrangement and contrivance, in a kitchen for purposes similar to that of the Reform Club: the same attention would be required from somebody in the kitchen of a hospitable mansion, and to whom can the arrangement be confided with any chance of success, but the architect. It is therefore necessary, that he should have previously studied these arrangements, and their uses; so that even in an ordinary case, he may provide such conveniences as will tend to cleanliness, comfort, and economy. The position of a few taps, or of a row of hooks, may subject him to severe comment on his professional skill, and it is his duty to consult the interest of his employer in the arrangement of the kitchen fire-place, just as it is in the plan and execution of the fabric.

Mr. Soyer shews that common kitchens could be fitted up with all the apparatus, required for an entertainment of some pretension. By means of a little contrivance, the object of the ordinary kitchen could be answered quite as effectually as that of the Reform Club. To explain this, he has given plans, one of a kitchen and larder in the usual basement plan of a London house, one which might be contrived in the back room of a bachelor's chambers, and a third, such as might be adapted to a small cottage or suburban residence. In these he called in the aid of an architect, who has devoted some attention to the subject. In the plan, (fig. 1) the kitchen is supposed to occupy its usual position at the front of the house, the only alteration being in the position of the area doorway, which in most cases, not always, would be beneath the street door. This change seems to have been made in order to accommodate all the fittings, of the dimensions which Mr. Soyer considered necessary, but in the majority of cases, we see no reason why the door could not occupy its usual place. The present position would by many persons be objected to, as it might be thought to interfere with the draught of the chimney, and it seems to have been with the view of preventing the possibility of this, that an outer door in the area, and a draught to the ash-pit were designed. The grate is similar to that in the Reform Club, described in the previous notice (pp. 341-342). It appears that the great advantage of this grate is, that the smallest bidd or the largest joint can be cooked, though there is only 4½ inches depth of coals; a consideration this last, of some importance. "Another advantage is, that boiling can be done in a very superior style, by means of a double grid-iron, suspended from an extending bracket, hooked over the top bar." The screen in front of the fire, with the folding-doors, includes closets, in which dishes can be placed upon the grated iron shelves, and removed by sliding doors at the back. The screen and doors completely inclose the fire, so that there is no inconvenience from heat in the kitchen. The roasting process is performed by the smoke-jack, by means of the spits, for which a rack is provided. The other conveniences will be explained by the reference, and by the cuts in the

* See page 364, ante.

previous number. The kitchen table has the drawers and shelves, arranged as in that already given. The iron rails or shelves (P and R) are similar to some, at the back of the gas stoves, in a previous illustration, and are for similar purposes; they are made in the manner shown, that they may not retain dust. What we may call the scullery department is represented in one corner of the kitchen. The pans being scrubbed with sand at P, can be washed in warm water at V, and afterwards rinsed in the cold water tub, W. In like manner crockery may be washed, being set to drain upon the draining-board, X, or the plates are ranged in the rack above, Y; the waste water in both cases running back into the tub. By very slight attention to such minutiae, the comfort of a family may certainly be greatly increased. These tubs are quite sufficient without the ordinary sink. To prevent smell from the drains, the waste-pipes should be trapped; and for that purpose Mr. Soyer has arranged a new apparatus. He states, that he contrived it after twelve months of the greatest inconvenience, arising from a complete stoppage in many of the drains of the Reform Club, which not only created offensive effluvia, but frequently caused the opening of the greater portion of the basement of the house. Since the introduction of the bell trap to the sinks throughout the kitchen department, the nuisance has entirely ceased. The bell is made of copper, and is six inches long and ten in circumference. It is screwed to the sink, and has several holes pierced through for the passage of the water only, and the prevention of any thing else passing down. It will be seen that the plug is attached to a rod, which is in its turn joined to a chain. By pulling the latter the plug is removed; and if it be necessary to keep it open, a link of the chain may be attached to a nail fastened in the wall. The expense is trifling; and Mr. Soyer adds, that it has been found so effective, that it has been adopted throughout the club, and in many kitchens elsewhere. It is shown at A in the sink, in one of the former illustrations. The mortar at E, in the larder, is fixed upon a pedestal, and has a pestle, the long handle of which passes through a ring in the wall. The meat-safe, F, is similar to that at the Club, which is thus described:—"The doors by a simple contrivance open and shut as it were by themselves, by means of a cord and a weight, which draws them, the same as a sash rolling upon pulleys, in a groove with iron plates in it, through which two pins are fixed six inches apart; on pushing the door open the pin is raised underneath to stop it, and by a retrograde motion of the elbow when taking a dish out the pin drops, and the door shuts of itself; it is so quickly done that there is hardly time for a fly to get in, besides the wires are so close that the impediment is complete; in addition to that an excellent current of air always prevails. The meat-safe is 4 feet high, 6 feet wide, and 3 feet deep, with two shelves inside: under it, between the bottom and the floor, is a shelf for jars and kitchen basins, &c." The frame hung from the ceiling in the larder of the Club, for meat and game, which at G resembles, except in dimensions, is "suspended by fixed iron rods, and is 10 feet long, and 6 wide, divided into three parts, having eight iron rods, one on each side of the transverse battens, to hang up the joints, game, poultry, &c., by means of loose and moveable hooks tinned over of a particular form, very easy to remove from, and hook on, the frame with the joints or other articles upon them, by the aid of a long handle with a double hook, there being a hole in the centre of the meat hook for that purpose, thus avoiding pricking any unnecessary holes in the meat." As this requires no further explanation, we have preferred, as in some other cases, to substitute illustrations of greater importance. The vegetable boxes, like those in the Club, are made of slate, having sliding fronts of wood, to facilitate cleaning. The first row is there 10 feet long, divided into eleven parts, namely, five of 1 foot 1 inch opening and 8 inches deep, 6 inches high in front, and 10 inches at the back; the other six are smaller. The lower divisions are for large vegetables, and consequently of greater dimensions, divided into seven boxes, five of which are 1 foot 7 inches deep, 9 inches high in front, and 1 foot 5 inches at the back, with 1 foot 5 inches opening; the other two are for po-

tatoes. "The whole appearance of the above boxes is agreeable, for you see at once all the various productions of the kitchen garden the most in season, and kept separate. There is something new in the plan which might easily be adopted. It is remarkably clean and cool."

In the plan of the bachelor's kitchen we notice many conveniences arranged in a small compass; and should the desires of our houseless bachelor readers extend beyond the limits of a steak or a chop, perhaps they might not do amiss in fitting up a room, somewhat in the manner suggested; but we have space for only one other illustration, and therefore devote it to the cottage kitchen, as more practically useful. This will be sufficiently clear from the plan and reference.

Mr. Soyer's main object appears to have been to shew, that the principal conveniences of a complete kitchen were not necessarily incompatible with the smallest house. He has drawn attention to the importance of the subject, and our professional readers may be able to carry out many of the suggestions with great advantage, and it is with this view that we have thought fit to notice the work at so great length.

BRITISH ANTIQUITIES IN LINCOLN-SHIRE.

DR. OLIVER, the indefatigable writer on free-masonry, who has done much towards the illustration of Lincolnshire, which at present much needs attention in this respect, has just now published an interesting little volume on the monastic institutions of the county.* Dr. Oliver says truly, in his preface, "The city of Lincoln abounds with materials of great interest, both monumental and documentary, which are suffered to remain almost unnoticed. Its Roman antiquities are numerous. Specimens of tessellated pavements, basements of pillars, and other marks of the occupancy of that magnificent people, are turned up wherever the soil is excavated to a moderate depth. Mr. Nicholson, one of the projectors of the Topographical Society, says, in a paper read before that body, that 'amongst the opportunities for observation that had fallen to his own share, he might mention the discovery of very many Roman coins, together with brick matrices in which they were cast, on the site of the tread-wheel of the city jail;—the removal of a considerable portion of the east wall of the city next to Broadgate, when levelling the sheepmarket;—the exposure of a very singular work of an octagonal form, built with Roman bricks, when excavating for the cellars of the house occupied by Mr. Jackson, chemist, in High-street, north of the Butter-house;—the discovery and destruction of extensive remains of a Roman bath, with the hypocaust and paving of very perfect tesserae, near the north end of the Wesleyan chapel, next to Grantham lane;—and many others.' Since this paper was read, two pavements have been found in different parts of Lincoln; and many remarkable antiquities were discovered amongst the excavations made by Messrs. Norton, when building their house in High-street.

The city is surrounded by vestiges of the highest antiquity, in the form of stone idols and tumuli, which are daily disappearing before the progress of agricultural improvements; and every memorial of our remote ancestors, theaborigines of the soil, will soon have entirely passed away, and become as though they had never been. A British deity on Cabourn wold, near Caistor, called the 'Stone sack,' has, I believe, been removed; and the Drake Stone at Anwick, may not be suffered to occupy its position much longer, although, for many centuries, it was regarded with devotional feelings, and esteemed a potent divinity. It is true, these feelings have been effaced by the substitution of a more perfect plan of salvation; but the superstitions attached to them are still in being; and it is an interesting employment to trace these superstitions to their source; and to mark the progress of the human mind from point to point, till the inquiry terminates in traditions, widely differing from the primitive fact, but corresponding thereto by a figurative reference, and an indubitable connection.

In every part of the country, similar monu-

* An Account of the Religious Houses, formerly situated on the Eastern Side of the river Witham. By the Rev. George Oliver, D.D. Spencer, High Holborn: 1846.